



WEATHER UPDATE

Yuma - Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the 90s and lows in the high 50s. **Oxnard** - Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s. **Mexico (Culiacan)**- Sunny to partly cloudy next week. Highs in the 90s and lows in the 50s. **Florida, Southern**— Sunny to partly cloudy next week with chances of rain Monday & then again next weekend. Highs in the 80s and lows in the 60s. **Idaho**— Mostly cloudy next week with a chances of rain or snow Sunday & Monday. Highs will be in the 60s and lows in the 30s.

TRANSPORTATION

The National Diesel Average has been recorded at \$3.093 up \$0.015 a gal from last week and down \$0.011 gal from last year. NPC continues to monitor and track diesel fuel averages by state as well as reported truckload freight rates on a weekly basis. **Transportation continues to work through its most significant structural changes in years in regards to new laws and regulations stressing available truck volume and controlling drivers. Trucks are in good supply across the country.**

[Follow Us On Facebook!](#)



MARKET ALERT

- Artichokes
- Avocado
- Bell Peppers
- Celery
- Grapes
- Limes
- Red Cabbage
- Romaine Hearts
- Sugar Snap Peas

MARKET OUTLOOK



Apples



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

As we enter Q2 - the only 2 apples with any concern are the granny smiths and golds. These 2 varieties are still very tight especially on small sizes - 100s and smaller. Good supplies of reds, galas and fu-jis. Demand is solid with prices steady. Internal pressures and flavor has been one of the best years.

Asparagus



QUALITY  SUPPLY 

The market and pricing are steady. Demand is lower than usual for this time as we head into Easter. Expect demand to increase this week for Easter. Good supply expected and quality is being reported as good to fair.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Avocados



Markets have come off the highs that they hit last week in the \$60's and are now in the mid \$50's. This particular week could see a small decline in markets, but at some point, fruit will be needed for Cinco de Mayo and it will be harder to find in 10 days or so. Mexico will pick heavy this week, possibly to try to cover what won't be picked next week. Once they stop picking for Holy Week, they won't return to pick until Apr 22, fruit won't start crossing again until the 24th or 25th and possibly as late as the 29th, which would make it too late to have in position to cover Cinco de Mayo.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Bananas



Banana supplies have transitioned back to "normal" with on time vessels and arrivals from the tropics. Fruit quality remains good with no real changes in the short term

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Berries



Blackberries- Prices are stable. **California, Mexico, & Guatemala** production are increasing. Quality is very good. Berries are deeply colored, juicy, & sweet. Sugar levels range from 12 to 13 Brix. **Blueberries**- The market is inching up. **California** season is at its peak; **Mexican** stocks are starting to tighten. **Florida** volumes are picking up & will continue to increase for the next few weeks. Expect supplies to be tight for the next 3 weeks. **Georgia** is expecting a big season starting in late May through June. Quality is very good. Fruit is plump & juicy. **Raspberries**- Suppliers are getting tighter and supplies are trending up. Quality is very good. Berries are plump and juicy with sweet flavor. Sugar levels range from 13 to 14 Brix.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Broccoli



Broccoli volumes have improved this week, since most growers have fully transitioned back to Salinas. Quality should improve now that we are in Salinas. Markets are expected to be stable for the next few weeks. Cool weather is expected in Salinas.

Brussels Sprouts



The market is up and supplies are tight this week due to low volumes crossing the Mexican border currently. Expect prices to maintain on the higher side. Cooler weather and rain have affected the new crop starting out of the Salinas Valley.

Cauliflower



Supplies are better this week, most of the growers have fully transitioned to Salinas Valley. Quality should improve now that we are in Salinas. The market is expected to be stable for the next few weeks. Cool weather is expected in Salinas Valley.

Cantaloupes



Larger sizes & very large retail promotions are driving the cantaloupe market right now. With reduced overall volume, directly related to whitefly in Guatemala, what is coming in is mostly 9s & larger leaving the smaller fruit (12/15s) in an almost demand exceeds supply scenario. Strong demand is currently on the larger fruit with increased pulls continuing through the holiday period. Fruit has been showing higher external color with solid brix levels in the 11-14% range.

Carrots



Harvest just started in the Imperial Valley. Quality looks and yields look good. Demand should fall off some with schools dropping out for summer. Expect no issues that should be a cause for concern.

Celery



MARKET ALERT



This market continues to stay escalated due to crop loss during the winter season. We expect higher prices until the end of the month. Santa Maria will start soon, and the first reports don't show a huge relief in the markets. Salinas Valley is behind and are not expecting to start celery until the end of May. Quality is being reported as only fair at this time.

Corn



Volume of corn available is limited as many fields are uneven due to cool weather. We should see better volume in Florida at the end of this week. All colors of corn are tight for loading in Nogales now. Mexican corn is winding down & will finish up in the next week. California is ramping up in production. Expect volume to pick up in May through July.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Cucumbers



In the West, cucumber supply should be good in the coming weeks. Sonora's crops are gaining momentum & Baja is in the first of the season harvests. Sinaloa crop will run for another 3-4 week, but few growers are reporting having quality issues & reduce shelf life which could be due to the high heat. In the East, cucumber volume is also strong this week. As new crops continue to come on board supply should remain strong through April.

Eggplant



Volume has picked up a bit out east as new field are finally into production. Quality is being reported fair, but there is some fruit from older fields with scarring & discoloration. The newer crops have better quality. Expect more volume in the next few weeks when Plant City is up & running. Mexico's eggplant volume is expected to remain steady for the next week or two. Quality is mostly good.

MARKET ALERT



Grapes



Grapes are getting a bit stronger especially green grapes & looks like we will be a little late starting out of Mexico and Coachella, hope to start the second week of May. The Chilean will need to bridge that gap & the Marketing order goes into effect Monday, which means all arrivals must meet US # 1 or they are not allowed here in the states so only a few reds will be arriving next week as the greens are all out of storage here. All distributors will be serviced based on last 6-8 avg. purchases.

No medium size on greens available

Green Beans



There is an abundance of green beans available out East. The yields from the current fields are strong. Good quality from all areas. Mexico is coming along with good volumes and good quality as well. Volumes are looking good for the Easter holiday.

Herbs



BASIL: The local crop is starting off slow but should be in good supply in a few weeks. We will continue to source from Mexico to fill in the short gaps. **TARRAGON:** Supply is starting to come in and should be good to go for the next several months. **MINT:** Supply is very good. **HOJA SANTA:** Limited supply for the next several weeks due to weather.

Honeydews



Good volume on honeydews will continue over the next 2-3 weeks with sizing leaning heavily to the larger fruit. This will leave the 6/8s in a very limited position. Mexican dewes have also shortened up as the southern region finishes production which is helping to create increased demand on offshore melons. Honeydew quality continues to be clean with brix levels mostly in the 10-13% range.

MARKET OUTLOOK



Iceberg



Supplies are light this week with the end of the Yuma season. Growers are transitioning to Huron & then back to Salinas Valley on April 22nd. We are still hearing reports of seeing signs of epidermal peel & blistering. Light weights & tip burns on outer leaves are expected. Quality will improve once all growers have transitioned to Huron & Salinas Valley.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Kale



The market continues to stay steady this week. Volumes are steady out of Yuma and now in Salinas Valley. Quality is good with full bunches, and only an occasional yellow leaf being reported.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Leaf



Romaine/ Green Leaf/ Red Leaf & Boston/Butter Lettuce - Supplies are light this week with the end of the Yuma season. Quality will improve once all growers have moved back to Salinas Valley in two weeks. Still hearing reports of epidermal peel and blistering. Light weights and tip burn on outer leaves are expected. Quality will improve now that we are back in Salinas Valley.

Romaine Hearts Alert– Supplies are light this week compare to previous weeks due to the transition.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Tender Leaf



The transition to California is complete now. Supplies can be a bit tight and there can be some quality issues for a few weeks after transitions. Prices are level & volume is average. Quality is good, reports of discoloration & mildew are minor issues.

QUALITY  SUPPLY 

Lemons & Limes



Lemons– The market remains steady this week. Better volume on larger size fruit, while smaller fruit is tightening up. Quality is reported to be good.

Limes ALERT – The market is higher this week from the lighter harvest expected next week due to the Holy Week holiday. Supply remains tight due to lower volume crossing through the Mexican border. The sizing profile is peaking on smaller sizes like 230s and 250s but many still have inventory on 110 count limes. Expect pricing to continue to rise as demand is up & labor is down. FOBs can easily be in the \$40 by next week.

MARKET ALERT

QUALITY  SUPPLY 



MARKET OUTLOOK



Onions



The onion market is steady from last week. A lot of people trying to transition quicker than normal. Supplies remains tight but as more regions come on this should improve, not drastically though. Yellow onion markets in the Northwest are lower as supplies are good. Red onions remain limited with white onions scarce in the Idaho/Washington region. Texas has started up this week with domestic supplies & all three colors available.

Onions, Green



Good supplies and good quality are being reported crossing from Mexico. Green Onions supplies are expected to be remain stable for the next few weeks.

Oranges



Navels are steady with good supply. Quality is looking good and the markets are steady. The sizing profile is peaking on 72/88/113ct. Larger sizes are limited. Steady supply of specialty citrus also available with good quality.

Pears



Pears are in good supply. Bartlett pears should go through February - Bosc should go through April. Red Anjou pears should go through June while Anjou pears through July -first part of August, just in time for new crop Bartlett pears.



Peppers, Bell



Southern Florida continues to provide the East with a light, but steady supply of bell peppers. Plant City will be the next area to come on board, likely next week. Although there are rumors that acreage in this area is down from normal years, this product will have to carry the East until Georgia gets up & running in mid-May. Quality is good & there's a descent mix of sizing available. In the West, the **California** season is slowly ramping up, just as Mexico's fruit sizing & quality become more challenging. Expect active markets into May as the crops transitions north. Quality is good, however there are some minor issues being reported of bruising & mechanical damage. Red & Yellow Peppers - Prices are escalating & supplies are extremely limited. Border, Trade, and Tariff issues are a factor on the cost and supplies right now.

Peppers, Chili



With Easter around the corner, chili pepper demand in Mexico's national market is strong especially on poblanos & to a lesser degree on jalapenos. Quality is being reported as good. Southern Florida growers continue with light volumes, but Plant City started its first jalapeno harvests this week. Expect more volume & varieties over the next few weeks from this area.

MARKET OUTLOOK

Pineapples



Pineapple volumes have slowed as yields are lower coming off a strong first quarter. At this point most of the incoming volume has been spoken for with Easter loading happening within the next few days. Availability should pick backup after Easter.



Potatoes



The market is steady and good availability on all sizes. Pricing has leveled off, and the consumer market has been on the slower side. The Burbank potatoes remain a smaller profile with limited availability on large cartons. Late storage quality concerns will be rising, we will keep an eye on it.



Squash



There is plenty of squash out East with southern Florida & Plant City both in production. Expect the volume to dip after next weeks as most growers in southern Florida finish up the season. Plant City should continue to bring good volumes for a few more weeks, weather permitting. Yellow squash from both areas have more scarring than most retail customers permit, so Eastern buyers are going West for better quality. Growers in southern Mexico have small acreage left, but most of the western's squash production is now centered in the Sonora area. Expect volume to remain solid for the next few weeks, weather permitting.



Strawberries



As the warm spring weather continues, the **Santa Maria & Oxnard**, California growing areas should see a marked increase in supplies. Look for most shippers to have promotable volume for Easter & Mother's Day. **Oxnard** fruit is fairly firm with occasional bruising, overripe, misshapen, wind burn & light water damage with average counts of 18 to 20. **Santa Maria** fruit is firm with occasional bruising, water damage, misshapen, green tip & wind burn with average counts of 14 to 16, occasionally higher & lower.



Tomatoes



Prices have inched up despite ample supplies. Although stocks are available on both coasts, **Mexico** is the prime growing region at this time. Border, Trade, & Tariff issues are a factor on cost & supplies right now. Mexico continues to provide a steady supply of round & roma tomatoes with mostly good quality. Mainland growers anticipate consistent volumes through April & into early May, which is when the seasonal decline will begin. There are some reports of quality issues on roma tomatoes, while some lots are excellent & others have challenges- as extreme temperature variances have affected fruit quality in select areas. Although Baja has been puttering along with light numbers, Spring roma crops will start next week with rounds to follow by the end of the month, adding to the supply mix. Grape tomato demand is light, allowing the crops currently in seasonal decline to meet demand. **Florida's** round tomato volume is expected to be lighter for the next week or two, as various growers make the transition from points south to the Palmetto/Ruskin area. Roma volumes are light, but steady as some southern crops are still in production & a few growers having started in Ruskin. Availability on grape tomatoes are excellent, as is quality. A few older crops are still in production in southern areas, but most are coming out of Ruskin/Palmetto now.





MARKET OUTLOOK

MARKET ALERT

Artichokes- Supplies are light this week especially on the 24ct size. Some distributors & end users are going to smaller sizes to fill orders. Supplies will be limited for a few weeks until we get more volume from Salinas. Quality is only been reported as fair at best.

Red Cabbage- Supplies still remain tight, causing an increase in cost. Markets are escalated.

Sugar Snap Peas- Supplies are tight, quality is good, and demand should be increasing. Expect pro-rates for the next couple of weeks.

Florida listening to new Mexican tomato

Seeking an 11th-hour deal that would preserve a revised [tomato](#) suspension agreement with the Commerce Department, Mexican tomato growers have submitted a proposal. The Florida Tomato Exchange said the proposal is welcomed, and that it contains some “useful suggestions” on how to prevent circumvention of the suspension agreement by Mexican producers. U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said earlier this year that the U.S. would end the current suspension agreement between the two countries on May 7. That would lead to a resumption of an anti-dumping investigation that could result in steep duties on Mexican tomatoes.

The proposal aims to replace the existing suspension agreement, which Mexican tomato growers say include several concessions. The proposal, according to a news release, includes the following:

- Price increases ranging from 6% to 34%, including eliminating differences between summer and winter prices, and establishing a higher price for organic specialty tomatoes;
- Requirements that loads of Mexican tomatoes with more than 35% condition defects will be returned to Mexico at the grower’s expense;
- Provisions making exports under a different signatory number other than one’s own a violation of the agreement;
- No adjustments can be made under the reference price;
- Provisions to block unintended exports of fresh tomatoes from Mexico and better manage inventory levels in the U.S.;
- A stronger ability for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enforce the agreement under the Perishable Agricultural Commodity Act by giving the Commerce Department all necessary grower documents to prove PACA violations;
- Penalties for intentional violations of the agreement by growers or selling agents; and
- Commitments by Mexican growers to help facilitate efforts by an interagency task force to enforce the agreement, including on-site and video verifications with independent auditors.

“Our goal from the beginning of the renegotiation process has been to focus on enforcement even though there is no evidence of circumvention of the agreement,” Oscar Woltman, president of AMHPAC, the largest Mexican growers association, said in the release. The proposals focus on enforcing the arrival condition of the first sale, which is what is covered by the antidumping law, Rosario Beltran of Confederación de Asociaciones Agrícolas del Estado de Sinaloa A.C., said in the release. “We have said all along we prefer an agreement over litigation, but only if it is fair,” Salvatore Garcia, President of Consejo Agrícola de Baja California A.C., said in the release.

Florida reaction: The Florida Tomato Committee said it will give input to the Commerce Department on the latest proposal.

“We will be providing comments to the Commerce Department on the Mexican proposal along with ideas on how to improve the earlier Commerce Department proposal from October 2018,” according to a statement from the committee. “We are hopeful this will lead to negotiations between the Mexican growers and the Commerce Department for a new suspension agreement that will finally meet the statutory requirement to eliminate completely the injurious effects of unfairly traded tomatoes.”

<https://www.thepacker.com/article/florida-listening-new-mexican-tomato-proposal>

If you have any specific questions or concerns on any commodities not mentioned in this report, please feel free to reach out to dforsythe@nproduce.com and we will be happy to give you those current market conditions. Also look for our Spanish version that will be released on Monday and our Midweek Update released every Wednesday. Have a great week!
Keeping You Informed,